

Hunsworth Urban District Council.

Medical Officer's Annual Report For the Year 1914.

To the

Chairman and Councillors for the Hunsworth Urban District.

GENTLEMEN,

It is now my duty to submit for your consideration the Annual Report for the year 1914. The district over which you preside is a hilly one and consists of four watersheds with a clay soil. The chief occupation of the inhabitants are the various processes connected with the manufacture of dress goods, coal mining, and agricultural pursuits.

BIRTHS.—During the year 25 births—17 males and 8 females—were registered, giving a birth-rate of 18·1 per 1000 of the population.

DEATHS.—In the same period 15 deaths—8 males and 7 females—were registered, giving a death-rate of 10·9 per 1000 of the population. One death belonging to the district but registered outside, brings the total deaths up to 16 with a rate of 11·6 per 1000 of the population.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—Three deaths under one year were registered, giving an infantile death-rate of 120 per 1000 births registered.

CAUSES OF DEATH.—The causes of death were:—Heart disease, 2; Pneumonia, 2; Brights disease, 2; Cancer, 1; Bronchitis, 2; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 1; Congenital Debility, 2; and other defined diseases, 4.

The ages at death were:—

Under 1 year	....	....	....	3
Over 5 and under 15 years	....	....	....	1
„ 25	„	45	„	.... 1
„ 45	„	65	„	.... 4
65 years and upwards	....	....	....	7

NOTIFICATIONS.—Fifteen notifications of infectious disease were received during the year, viz.:—Scarlet Fever, 4; Measles, 7; Diphtheria, 1; Puerperal Fever, 1; Erysipelas, 1; and Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 1; of these, five were treated in Hospital, the Scarlet and Puerperal Fever cases and the others isolated at home where all recovered except the Tuberculosis case which died. Disinfection of all premises where infectious disease occurs is carried out and in cases of Tuberculosis contacts are examined and kept under observation for a time and advice given how to live to prevent developments.

The water supply is leased from the Bradford Corporation and is distributed to all parts of the district with the exception of Boundary Terrace, Lodge Farm and Green Lane (one house), which depend for their supply on wells. The water has no plumbo solvent action. The supply is plentiful but had to be entirely shut off on June 18th and 19th for repairs.

No complaint of stream pollution has come under my notice or that of the Sanitary Inspector.

The drainage of the district is not yet complete; Cringles, Hunsworth Lane, and Hunsworth Village still require to be done, but which part will I have no doubt be completed before another year. The disposal of the sewage is treated partly by land filtration and part by the out-fall works belonging to the Birkenshaw Urban District Council. No sink wastes were disconnected during the year but two were trapped. Two sink wastes still need disconnecting and approximately 46 are still untrapped. There are 371 closets in the district of which 173 are privies with open middens, 113 with covered middens, 20 are pail or tub closets, 54 are water closets, and 11 waste water closets. One privy was converted into a W.C. and one into 3 tub closets, while 3 W.C.'s were constructed for new property.

The scavenging of the district is carried out by contract and either utilised by Farmers or deposited in the Council's tip in Raiks Lane. Once more gentlemen I should urge on you to do away with ashpits substituting dustbins in their place, insist on all backyards being paved and wherever possible convert privies into W.C.'s.

There are neither common lodging houses, canal boats, knacker's yards, or offensive trades in the district, neither is there any slaughter-house.

The School in the district is supplied with pure water from the Council's mains, and the sanitary condition is much improved since the privies were converted into W.C.'s. Disinfection of the School is carried out after every vacation and also after any Epidemic. The medical inspection of the school children lies in the hands of the County Education Authority.

The milk supply is in the hands of 22 milk sellers, who are also cow keepers, and 2 purveyors, and the total number on the register is 24. There has not been any complaint either as to quantity, quality or purity of the milk either within or without the district and no disease has been attributed to it. There are 29 cowsheds in the district all in fairly good condition. There are 24 cowkeepers and 24 on the register. The veterinary inspection of the cows in the district is left in the hands of the M.O.H. who has power to call in a veterinary surgeon when required.

There has been no call to take samples of milk or other food stuffs sold to the public for inspection during the year.

HOUSE AND TOWNPLANNING ACT.—Under this Act there are 321 houses to be inspected 130 of which have been inspected, 104 were found satisfactory and 26 unsatisfactory. Formal notice being given to remedy defects, 15 were complied with and the other 11 promised to be done. The chief defects were dampness chiefly due to lack of pointing, some to defective roofs and others to imperfect drainage. One had defective ventilation and no drainage but was very quickly remedied. Two have been closed voluntarily and will be eventually demolished. Four cases of overcrowding have come under my notice during the year three of which have been remedied and one still remains, but as there are in no part of the district any working class dwellings suitable for families of eight, ten, or twelve, I have refrained from dealing severely with them.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT.—During the year several visits of inspection have been made to the factories and workshops in the district. The factories number three and the workshops two. All have been found satisfactory, and no outworkers are attached thereto, and after careful enquiry none are employed by other firms in the district. Therefore no slips have either been sent or received.

I remain,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN BARCLAY.

INGLESIDE,

BIRKENSHAW, NEAR BRADFORD,

February 24th, 1915.

